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## Death Claims Loranger

Paul D. Loranger, Torrance automobile dealer and civic leader, died suddenly in his home Friday.



PAUL D. LORANGER

Holder of the rare distinction of serving as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce two successive years, Loranger had been ill for some time.

He served as head of the Chamber in 1954 and 1955, and was acclaimed Citizen of the Year for his efforts in civic projects and numerous drives.

At his death, he was chairman of a Chamber committee which is seeking uniform mailing addresses for all of Torrance. President of the Torrance Kiwanis Club in 1953, Loranger had consistently led drives for city beautification.

Born in Flint, Mich., he was an executive for General Motors for many years. He established Paul's Chevrolet in Torrance in April, 1947.

As head of the agency, he supplied automobiles free of charge to the school district's driver education program and the Youth Economy R-1 as well as sponsoring a Little League team.

With his wife, Helen, he resided at 1448 Post Ave. He also leaves a daughter, Alicia, a school teacher in Ventura, and two sisters, Mrs. Hermine Foote, of Flint, Mich., and Mrs. Gabrielle Rief, of Buffalo, N.Y.

In addition to being active in Torrance organizations, Mr. Loranger was past president of LFD, an auto dealers club, and served as Chevrolet representative on the Dealers Planning Council of General Motors.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Stone & Myers Mortuary Chapel with Rev. Walter Stanton, pastor of the United Brethren Church, officiating. Interment will be in Green Hills Mausoleum.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be sent to the American Heart Association.

## Shooting Becomes Murder

Three teenagers will be charged with murder after the victim in a robbery died Christmas Day morning of shotgun wounds received in a holdup early Sunday.

Death of Aaron William Johnson, 40, Los Angeles barber, was reported by Harbor General Hospital where he had been on the critical list for four days.

**Change Charges**  
Det. Sgt. Don Hamilton said that he will seek an amended complaint against two youths, Edward Thomas Benavidez, alleged triggerman, and Gabriel Joseph Barreras, both 18, and a 16-year-old juvenile.

Preliminary hearing on robbery and assault with intent to commit murder charges, has been slated in Municipal Court Dec. 30 against the two 18-year-old suspects. Juvenile officers have filed similar charges against the other boy in juvenile court.

According to police, Johnson, and his nephew, Dale M. Allsop, 25, of 18435 S. St. Andrew's Pl., were held up by the suspects while they were on their way to Allsop's home.

Johnson was gunned down with a .410 gauge shotgun when he apparently failed to toss his wallet into the street.

He was shot in the abdomen with the sawed-off weapon from a range of four feet.

# Resident Perishes in Burning House

## Man Dies in One of Two House Fires

A man lost his life in one of two house fires which marred the Christmas holiday in the Torrance area. Homer Combs, 43, of 1557 West 203rd St., was found dead on the floor of his home early Friday morning, apparently the victim of asphyxiation.

Los Angeles firemen discovered him on the floor of the hallway, where he had apparently collapsed. Investigators said the fire was started by a furnace in the hall. Structural damage was estimated \$1000, while contents were valued at another \$2000, firemen said.

The victim's step-daughter, Mrs. Mary Watwood, who resided at that address, and her sister, Mrs. Rita Downing, said they discovered smoke pouring from the house when they returned from a restaurant.

Mrs. Watwood broke a window to reach the bedroom where she assumed Combs was sleeping. When she failed to find him there, she and her sister doused the fire with a garden hose until firemen arrived.

Approximately \$1500 structural damage was caused to the home occupied by the David J. Hughes family, of 2306 Gramercy Pl., Thursday night.

They had just returned to the home, when one of their children spotted smoke. They and neighbors sprinkled the house with garden hoses until Torrance firemen under Battalion Chief Bill Slonecker arrived.

The fire broke out in a bedroom closet of undetermined causes, and destroyed a number of clothes belonging to Mrs. Hughes' parents who were visiting over the holidays from Salt Lake City.

The house is owned by Frank Sclarotta.



FIRE DAMAGE—Mrs. Mary Watwood sadly inspects shambles of home where her step-father, Homer Combs died of asphyxiation early Friday. The fire which broke out from a furnace, caused approximately \$1500 structural damage.

Press Photo

## How Child Learns to Write Explained by Educators

How does Johnny learn to write? Members of the Torrance Board of Education recently got a graphic lesson in how the subject is taught from Wood Elementary School and Mrs. Nina Lavender, teacher, demonstrated.

Showing how children's writing improves from the large, squiggly letters when they start to smooth attractive letters later were Barbara Braun, first grader; Steven Ishibashi, second; Dean Holmes, third; Pat Eckersley, fourth; Michael Hubbard, fifth; and Linda Rosencrantz, sixth. They demonstrated in front of a large bulletin board which pictured their writing and speed and was accompanied by their pictures.

Children usually start printing in the first grade, Principal Robert Evans explained, although they sometimes begin in kindergarten if they are ready for it. The schools try to offer the instruction on an individual basis, he said, since some children develop faster.

"Handwriting is a basic subject and we stress it," he said. Because of muscular development, Johnny usually learns to print first. When he is able to move into cursive writing usually at about eight years old, he makes the transition from printing.

As Johnny starts to write, his letters are large and squiggly. Gradually he gets more practice and can make them smaller and neater. His speed also im-

proves. The first grader can write about 30 letters per minute, while a seventh grader can write from 70 to 80 per minute. "Handwriting develops as a person develops," Evans declared. "It is constantly changing. It improves until a person becomes a mature adult. Then, in later years, handwriting ability usually declines somewhat."

Neatness or lack of it in handwriting has no connection with a child's IQ, he said. Unusually bright students may write badly and slower students may have beautiful writing. However, studies indicate that handwriting ability is related to art ability, he reported.

Schools make no attempt to force left-handed children, who form about five per cent of the class, to use their right hands, declared Evans, himself a "leftie."

The "lefties" are taught that slant their paper and hold their fingers just in reverse of what their right-handed classmates do.

Youngsters are taught that posture is important in writing, Evans said.



ON TARGET—Donna Isbell, 18, one of five beauties who will ride on Torrance float New Year's Day, has proved herself a sharpshooter on the rifle range. She is a member of the SC Pistol and Rifle Club, which is now open to women after Donna demonstrated her accuracy with fire arms while it was an exclusively male organization.

Press Photo

## Board Appointment Controversy Viewed

A suggestion for a Planning Commission appointment which could create a political furor was made Tuesday by Councilman Nicholas O. Drale. He nominated John Mulvihill to succeed himself when his term expires Jan. 15. Since there is indication the commission may be cut from nine to seven members, and the term of President Bert Lynn also expires at the same time, the City Council may have to choose between the two men.

**One Vacancy**  
Reduction in the number of members was seen earlier, when the City Council failed to fill the ninth seat on the commission which has been vacant since J. A. Beasley was elected to the City Council.

Since that time, the board has been made up of eight members. Another commission appointment which could create controversy is that of Ross Sclarotta, who will have served four years of his original six-year appoint-

## Dead-Eye Donna Is Marksman

Donna Isbell, one of the beauties who will decorate the Torrance Tournament of Roses float, has become known as a straight-shooting chick around town.

That's because she can handle a rifle with the best of the boys and consistently scores in the high 90's while target practicing with the SC Pistol and Rifle Club.

Dead-eye Donna, 18, and pretty, got into the range competition quite by accident.

The faculty sponsor of the club, Sterling Ebel, for whom she works part time, invited her to participate in the shooting practice one day about two years ago, "just for the fun."

The Torrance girl proved her marksmanship in no time at all, and for a while was the only female member of the club.

Her success with hitting the bull's eye attracted several other coeds into the club which now sponsors a woman's team.

Miss Isbell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Isbell, of 1516 Beach St., is a physical education major and expects to enter the teaching field following her graduation.

Last summer she served as Miss Airport Day here, and the title won her the privilege of riding the Rose Parade float with four other Torrance girls.



NEW EXPERIENCE—Part of the fun of Christmas is trying out the new toys. But some times it isn't so easy. Linda Gitschier, 3, of 1662 Beach St., discovers as she needs help from elder sister, Joan, 10, to master her new roller skates.

Press Photo

## Stop Sign Cut-down Sought

A move to cut down the number of stops a motorist will have to make in Torrance, was proposed this week by Councilman J. A. Beasley.

He asked that the police department and Traffic Commission come up with a program to eliminate a number of unnecessary boulevard stops in the city. Beasley suggested that all signs except those designed to protect school children and those needed for traffic safety be removed.

In another safety measure, Councilman George Bradford was finally successful in pushing the hiring of six additional policemen.

He asked that the men be appointed as of March 1, and estimated that their cost for the balance of the fiscal year at around \$20,000.

Bradford has been seeking additional police manpower for several months.

## Avalon Paving Slated

Resurfacing of Avalon Blvd. from 222nd to 223rd St. was authorized Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors.

The improvement will consist of resurfacing the center 30-foot portion of the roadway to a new grade in order to increase the crown and improve the cross-section of the existing pavement, Supervisor Burton W. Chace said.

The Road Department has tentatively scheduled the work to start this week. However, Chace pointed out that this will depend on completion of continuing maintenance and weather conditions.

The completion of this work will improve drainage conditions and provide a smoother riding surface.

Recent traffic counts indicate that approximately 11,000 vehicles per day use this portion of Avalon Blvd., a major highway in the County Master Plan Highway System, the Supervisor revealed.

Chace stated that the work has been scheduled by the Road Department to minimize inconvenience to the public and asks the cooperation of motorists in using caution on this street during the period of construction.

## First Baby of 1959 Sponsored by Press

Continuing its annual tradition, the Torrance Press again will sponsor the First Baby of 1959 Contest.

An official entry blank, as well as rules of the contest and list of prizes, is contained in today's issue of this newspaper.

Purpose of the contest is to determine the first baby born in the new year. The contest is open to all expectant mothers who reside in the Torrance Press circulation area.

It will only take a few moments to have the entry blank filled out and return it to our office, 1406 Cravens Ave., Torrance.

Although the baby may be delivered anywhere, records must be easily available for verification. The publisher and editor of the Torrance Press will be judges and their decision will be final.



MOVING AHEAD—The Torrance Board of Education recently got a lesson in how local youngsters learn to read from six youngsters from Wood School. The board learned how first youngsters learn to print, gradually gaining speed and moving into cursive writing.

Drawings of each child were on the board. Shown are Barbara Braun, Steven Ishibashi, Dean Holmes, Jan Eckersley, Pat Coyne and Linda Rosencrantz. Mrs. Nina Lavender accompanied the students.